We are happy to send you this internal newsletter with the latest updates from our working group.

**Achievements - Last Term**

There were several exciting developments in the project during term 181:

- The main content of the UN Language Framework was completed. We now have a final draft of the overall and specific descriptors for each UN Level.

- The teams made significant progress on the breakdown of the UN Levels into specific courses.

- The language teams also completed and the Collaboration Exercise for the specialized courses. You can see the reports [here](#).

- The WG held an online information session with learning managers from ECLAC (Santiago), ESCAP (Bangkok), ESCWA (Beirut) to introduce them to the project and to invite their participation.

- Further outreach efforts include meetings with and an invitation to OAHs and Economic Commissions to participate in the Harmonization Project as announced in the [newsletter of the Centrally Coordinated Programmes](#).

- Thanks to our colleagues in the Language Learning Services Unit (LLSU), the Harmonization Project now has a [dedicated webpage](#) on the HR Portal, which also includes our ToR & FAQs.
Once again, we would like to thank the Heads of the UNOG and UNHQ Language Programmes, Virginie Ferre and Felipe Martín-Sarachaga, for their continued commitment to the Harmonization Project.

The current membership of the Working Group:

Fernando Lopez, Spanish Coordinator at UNHQ, has started to oversee the project in coordination with Felipe.

Fabienne Pairon (UNOG) and Anna Sanvisens (UNHQ) stay on as Focal Points for the project.

Li Bourrit (Chinese/UNOG) has rejoined the project.

Rodrigo Bergamasco-Bottura (UNHQ English) and Sebastien Durietz (UNHQ French) have joined the WG.

Jérôme Quentin (UNHQ French), Mary Regan (UNHQ English), and Kieran Rigney (UNOG English) remain on the team.

Javier Serrano (UNON) has left the UN and the Harmonization Project. The WG wishes to extend its thanks to Javier for his tremendous contribution to the project.

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**In Progress - Current Term**

- **Reading Guide to the UN Level Descriptors**

  The descriptors necessarily contain some linguistic terminology and terms that are open to interpretation. To make them more usable by readers, we are developing a guide with a glossary of the more abstract terms. This first draft of this guide will be completed and shared, along with the descriptors, by 26 May.

- **Outline for the core part of the Course Programme**

  The Course Programme will describe the global contents and objectives of a series of related or sequenced courses (e.g., the regular levels). Each of the six official UN languages will also have a separate course programme, with some fixed elements common to all languages (core part). We invite you to read again the Glossary of Terms, as it includes definitions of the Course Programme and other important terms.

  This term the WG is deciding on the categories of the Course Programme and how they will be populated and articulated. The Course Programme will eventually help teachers to benchmark their language courses and local realities with the new UN Language Framework.
• **Final Collaboration Exercise**

All language teams, including teachers in Nairobi, have been invited to participate in the **final part of the collaboration exercise** to consolidate what was learned in the first two parts.

• **Officialization of the UN Language Framework**

The Working Group hopes to see the UN Language Framework ‘officialized’ at some point during this term. This means it will become an Administrative Instruction (AI) and will replace the former ST/AI/113 “Linguistic Standards for Staff at the UN Secretariat”.

• **LPE specifications: Exam format, evaluation criteria.**

We are happy to continue counting on Neus Figueras for a few weeks more. The Working Group is liaising with her to start defining the specifications for a factible and valid LPE.

• **Harmonization Workshops - Save the Date!**

- **UNOG:** Mid-term meeting on Thursday, 31 May
  End-of-term meeting on Thursday, 19 July
- **UNHQ:** Mid-term meeting on Thursday, 31 May
  End-of-term meeting on Wednesday, 18 July

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**Next Steps - Future Terms**

• the creation of a detailed project plan, containing specific actions and expected results for the period September 2018 to December 2019

• the creation of the specific parts of the Course Programme for three languages starting in September 2018. The other 3 languages will begin this work in January 2019. We expect to work three terms in total for each language.

• LPE Test Specifications

  This work will continue for at least two more terms. The next step will be to create a model exam for each language. The deadline for a final revised LPE was postponed with no specific date, but we tentatively envisage 2020.

• the presentation of the Harmonization Project to more stakeholders and eventually, the global dissemination of the project.